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(54) Backup and restore system for a computer network

(57) In a computer network environment (200), multiple clients (210) and multiple servers (230) are connected via a local area network (LAN) (220) to a backup file server (240). Each client (210) and each server is provided with backup agent software (215), which schedules backup operations on the basis of time since the last backup, the amount of information generated since the last backup, or the like. An agent (215) also sends a request to the backup server (240), prior to an actual backup, including information representative of the files that it intends to back up.

The backup server (240) is provided with a mechanism to receive backup requests from the client agents (215) and accept or reject backup requests on the basis of backup server loading, network loading, or the like. The backup server (240) is further provided with mechanisms to enact redundant file elimination (RFE), whereby the server indicates to the client agents, prior to files being backed up, that certain of the files to be backed up are already stored by the backup server. Thus, the clients do not need to send the redundant files to be backed up.

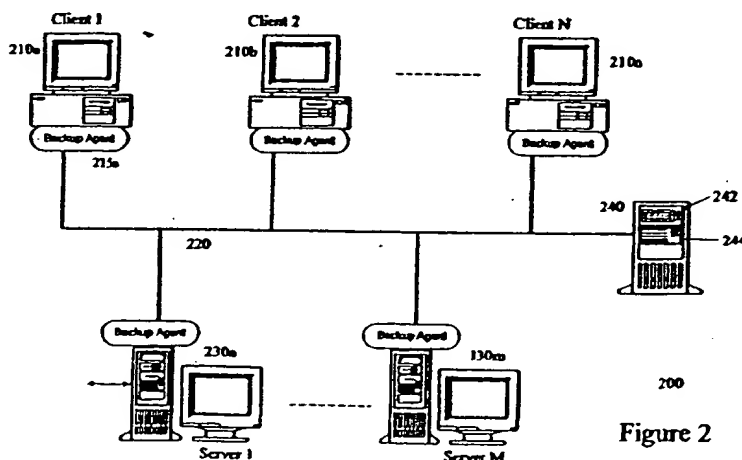


Figure 2

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